

## Higher Essay Outlines

### **THE NAZI STATE 1933-1939**

These questions based on the fact that there was support for, and opposition to, Nazis. These two parts of German society generally feared and hated each other.

The Nazi state played on these fears and hatreds, and had different policies to deal with the two sections.

You have to be able to describe these policies and use them to deal with the particular question set.

### **HOW FAR DID THE NAZI STATE RELY ON FEAR FOR ITS SURVIVAL IN THE YEARS 1933 – 1939?**

*(Which policies were most important in keeping the Nazis in power, those which created fear among opponents or those designed to reward supporters?)*

#### Introduction

- In 1933 Hitler comes to power – gets 37% of popular vote, 63% oppose Nazis
- He had to ensure he held on to power to achieve his goals
- Some Nazi policies dealt violently with their opponents (briefly list)
- Some policies helped those who already were Nazis and encouraged others to join (briefly list)
- Historians debate how far Germans were willing followers or forced into war and genocide

#### Police State

- Concentration camps set up to deal with opposition (describe political opponents and “undesirables”)-inmates mostly released and word of their treatment spread
- SS used to carry out Nazi racial and other policies (murder of handicapped, criminals and camp inmates)
- The police were put under the Nazi control
- The Gestapo were set up to find and destroy opposition
- Main task 1933 – 1934, to create fear among working class anti-Nazis
- Few workers involved in organised opposition most “kept their heads down”

#### Economic Policies

- Nazi policy of remilitarisation of Germany helped most social classes
- Workers got jobs and regular (if lower incomes)
- Middle and Upper Class benefited as armaments orders boosted industry
- Farmers better off as Nazi “self-sufficiency” policies increased crop output

Mini-conclusion – both types of policy important to keep Nazis in power

### Disregard for the Rule of Law

- Nazis were put above the law. Officials acted in the name of the Fuhrer
- S.A. troopers were allowed to “settle scores” on the streets
- S.A. held rallies to intimidate working class and Jewish residents
- The police were ordered to “assist the nationalist element” i.e. Nazis
- Special courts with Nazi judges “tried” and executed suspects
- S.S. murdered S.A. leaders totally outside the law
- Nazi laws took away Jewish rights, but they were ridiculed, beaten, murdered and robbed outside the law, with no protection

### Propaganda

- The Nazis made use of propaganda to gain and keep support
- Nazi run radio and newspapers,
  - built up the myth of Hitler’s greatness
  - gave only positive information
  - created anti Jewish feeling
  - built up the myth of a “master-race”
  - used foreign policy successes to show how the Nazis had destroyed the “Diktat” of Versailles
- Huge, spectacular events and rallies (Olympic Games, Nuremberg, etc.) were used to show Germany’s greatness

Mini-conclusion – both types of policy important to keep Nazis in power

### Synchronisation

- This was a policy of getting all Germans to adopt Nazi ideas
- Anti-Nazi and Jewish Germans removed from professions (details)
- Party members (Middle and Upper Class) often got these jobs (details)
- Workers got entertainment/holidays through the Labour Front (details)
- Young people made fit and taught Nazi ideas in youth groups (details)

Conclusion – how far did these policies keep the Nazis in power?

- By 1939 many young people had been trained to adore Hitler
  - Most middle class people had done well through Nazi policies
  - The generals and upper class had a powerful army and nation again
  - Working people had jobs and were promised a better life
  - Most Germans were proud that Germany was no longer the guilty, divided and poor nation of 1918
- BUT
- Germans were not free to criticise
  - All organised opposition had been ruthlessly destroyed
- ALSO
- Signs of resistance were still there (Some Christian groups, young people, public apathy towards war)
  - Nazis forced to take more and more groups into concentration camps